

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 21-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-14, and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 1-16 and claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Claim 23 also stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 21, 23, and 24 have been amended; claim 25 has been newly added; and claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by virtue of these amendment. Accordingly, after entry of this response, the pending claims will be claims 1, 2, 4-16 and 21-25.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 and 21-23 under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph and claim 23 also under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 21, and 23. Thus, the Applicant believes that the grounds for rejection are now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11-14, and 21-24 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 3,603,664 to James ("James" or the "James Reference") in view of U.S. Patent Number 2,753,760 to Braymer ("Braymer" or the "Braymer Reference"). The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 21 to include the subject matter of claim 3, which the Examiner has admitted being allowable. Thus, the Applicant believes that the grounds for rejection are now moot.

P. Sadler
U.S.S.N. 10/606,469
Page 10

New claim 25 is the original claim 1 further including the subject matter of dependent claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable

Accordingly, the Applicant asserts that, independent claims 1 and 21 and all claims depending therefrom are not made obvious by the cited references and, further, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 100, especially 35 USC § 103(a). Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The Applicant believes that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 5, 2005

By: 
George W. Hartnell, III
Reg. No. 42,639
Attorney for Applicant(s)

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
(617) 517-5523
Customer No. 21874

485268